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place, the absence of any overlying till. An overlying till of insignificant thickness has been observed, as it appears, by only one geologist (Tullberg) in one single locality, and the authors say that this observation was a misinterpretation of the facts. The supposed later till is described as a stony sand, perhaps somewhat "kneaded" into the underlying clay. It is not of morainic nature. It would, at all events, be unlikely that morainic material should have been left by an ice-sheet in one single locality, while nearly all of the clay in the vicinity remained uncovered and undisturbed. The prevalence of arctic conditions at the time of the making of the clay is indicated by the presence throughout the deposit of *gadus polaris*, SABINE, and the marine origin of the clay is evident from the presence of the same fossil and also by the presence of small fragments of marine *coscinodiscus*, of fragmentary spicules of *spongia*, and of no less than 33 species of foraminifera. Attention is called to the fact that the Lomma clay in many respects resembles the glacial clay of central Sweden, and the authors regard it as equivalent to the laminated clays near Sandhammaren and of several other places on the southeast coast of southern Sweden.

The foraminifera of the Lomma clay have been made an object of special investigation by Victor Madsen. From the comparative scarcity of these remains in this clay (such remains being found in abundance in shallow marine deposits in Scandinavia), from the disintegrated condition in which they are often found, and from the total absence of the largest species, he concludes that the tests were transported to their present place, by currents, from their real habitat, and that the clay was probably laid down on the bottom of a bay somewhat shut off from communication with the open sea. The identified forms are referred, with some hesitation, to a late stage in the glacial age, or, in the words of the author, "they bear a late glacial stamp."

J. A. U.

Har det funnits mera änn en Istid i Sverige? [Has there been more than one ice period in Sweden?] af N. O. HOLST, Sveriges Geologiska Undersökning, Stockholm, 1895, 56 pp.

The spirit and method of this discussion, which is essentially a restatement of familiar arguments against the divisibility of the glacial period, are shown by the opening sentence "Even in the domain of

science there is a weakness for what is in mode. When some new view is introduced in a country, the chances for its general acceptance will be materially increased if it has been adopted in another country, or if it is understood to be so adopted. It is only in this way that we can explain how the idea of two glacial periods has gained such a foothold in Sweden as it has today." Much of kindred nature follows, involving personal implications. The section on America is introduced in like fashion. "If any one should think the coincidences of American interglacial proofs corroborate the proofs of European interglacialists, he makes a mistake in so far as that the American interglacial evidences have not been worked out independently, but after European patterns."

Ex. Tr. by J. A. U.

Les Glaciers Pliocènes et Quarternaires de l'Auvergne; par M. MARCELLIN BOULE. Gauthier-Villars et fils, Imprimeurs-Libraires des comptes rendus des séances de l'Académie des Sciences, Paris, Dec. 1895.

Many geologists have studied the ancient glaciers of Auvergne. Rames had observed in the environs of Aurillac glacial formations of two different epochs, separated by a lapse of time sufficient to erode the valleys. While the moraines in the valleys have been accepted as such by all geologists, doubts have been raised as to the morainic nature of the more ancient formations on the summits of the hills and on the plateaux. The author, having devoted himself for several years to the making of a detailed geological map of the Auvergne region, took up the subject in much more detail than had previously been given to it. The volcanic massifs of Mts. Dore, Cezallier and Cantal, form an immense semicircular amphitheater, more than forty kilometers in diameter. The plateaux and the lesser declivities of this cirque present thousands of monticules that show, on the side toward the cirque, gentle slopes, rounded surfaces and moutonnées often furrowed with deep parallel striæ; while the opposite sides present sharp angles and vertical escarpments. Nothing is more curious to the traveler than the difference in the landscape as viewed, respectively, looking toward the amphitheater and toward the valley opposite. Between the monticules there is a labyrinth of meadows, with occasional marshes, underlain with morainic material, including striated flints and blocks of all sizes.